

FIELD TRIPS OF THE CLUB

TRIP OF AUGUST 6, 1938, TO THE VICINITY OF ALBANY, N. Y.

The week-end trip in the vicinity of Albany, was under the leadership of Dr. Homer D. House, State Botanist. It proved to be a most enjoyable occasion with two sunny days, in a region new to the club members. The lobby of the Wellington hotel, Albany, was the meeting place and after our group was photographed for a local afternoon paper a start was made by cars with the first stop at Glenmont, a few miles south of Albany, where on the Norman's Kill shale formation was observed "rock-garden like" growths of *Selaginella rupestris*, *Cerastium arvense*, *Woodsia ilvensis*, and other unusual species. From Glenmont the group motored to the vicinity of Clarksville where a portion of the gorge of the Oniskatou creek was traversed, interesting for its mosses, lichens and liverworts, with such flowering plants as *Kalmia latifolia*, *Amelanchier amabilis* and *Serapias helleborine* among the many species collected or observed. From Clarksville the party went to the John Boyd Thacher Park, near New Salem, where several hours were spent along the top of the Helderberg escarpment, and also following the trail beneath the overhanging ledges. This is a wooded area of cliffs, small waterfalls and brooks, and much geological and fossil history has its origin in the studies made here in past decades. After twenty years of use as a public park, the native vegetation plainly shows in many places the effects of abuse, but most sections of the park away from the main trails are still intensely interesting for the large variety of mosses and lichens, flowering plants and rock-loving ferns, such as *Camptosorus rhizophyllus*, *Asplenium ruta-muraria*, *A. trichomanes*, *Polypodium* and others. On our return toward Albany a short detour was made taking us to the summit of Wolf hill, one of the highest elevations of the northern escarpment of the Helderbergs, where *Habenaria hookeri* and *Arctostaphylos uva-ursi* were noted. The evening was spent in Doctor House's office in the State Museum in a discussion of the day's collections.

Meeting in front of the State Museum early Sunday morning the first stop was made on the plateau just west of Berlin. This area is a poorly drained region with many boreal species, including *Abies balsamea*, *Picea rubra*, *Aster acuminatus*, *Oxalis mon-*

tana and others species characteristic of the Adirondack region. With a steep descent into the valley of the Little Hoosick River we turned northward to Petersburg and then up the long winding "Mohawk trail" to the Petersburg Pass summit on the Massachusetts line. The elevation here is about 2000 feet. There is a good lunch room here and an observation tower and parking place for many cars. Our route took us northward along the ridge trail through dense growths of low blueberries, *Potentilla tridentata*, *Rhinanthus crista-galli*, and many species of grasses and sedges.

In some places plants of *Microstylis ophioglossoides* were observed along the trail, and near the end of this walk about a mile north of the pass Dr. House pointed out two interesting ferns, *Botrychium obliquum* (and its variety *dissectum*), and *B. multifidum*, closely resembling each other but different in texture, the latter having fleshy, evergreen fronds and the other of much thinner texture as well as having longer and more pointed segments than *B. multifidum*. There were fifteen members and friends present on this week-end trip.

A. T. BEALS

TRIP OF SEPTEMBER 10 ALONG THE LONG ISLAND TERMINAL MORAINE NORTH OF HOLLIS

Twelve members and the leader took the walk Saturday, September 10, along the Long Island terminal moraine, beginning at 188th Street, Queens, just north of the Grand Central Parkway. The walk led through what is now called Cunningham Park, a wooded area showing on every hand a morainal configuration—large and small kettle holes, irregular topography, and boulders heterogeneous as to shape, size, and constitution, hailing from somewhere to the northward. This long ridge, extending through a large part of Long Island, is of extreme interest, geologically, and it is indeed fortunate that at least part of it has been preserved by the creation of Cunningham Park. We hope that it will be allowed to remain in as nearly its natural formation as possible. Botanically, the flora of the kettle holes is of the greatest interest. In one, in which water stands, evidently permanently, we found an almost exclusive population of what appears to be *Polygonum muhlenbergii* (Meisn.) Wats. which agrees closely with *P. emersum*,

Britton. The lovely rose-colored tint of the flower spikes is similar to the shade of the Lady's Thumb, *P. persicaria*, and the colony was so dense that this shade was imparted to the whole area. Nearby, along the shore, was an attractive little Labiate, *Stachys hyssopifolia*, which we had seen further to the eastward near the large public parking space. It seemed to be well established here.

The usual fall-flowering goldenrods were seen, especially *Solidago rugosa*, *juncea*, *canadensis*, *caesia*, *graminifolia*, and *tenuifolia*—the last two growing near together, just east of the parking space, and well represented. Flowering plants of Culver's-root, *Veronica virginica*, were also found. Others identified were *Lespedeza frutescens*, *Cassia nictitans*, and *Lactuca spicata*. Along the roadside on the return to Hollis, a rather unusual grass *Setaria italica*, (L.) Beauv, was found, apparently an escape. This is cultivated under the names of Millet, German Millet, or Hungarian Grass.

ARTHUR H. GRAVES

TRIP OF SEPTEMBER 10 TO THE SHAWANGUNKS

On the morning of September 10th a small group met at Lake Minnewaska for a weekend of exploration in the vicinity of this glacial mountain lake, long famous for its summer resorts.

Arenaria groenlandica var. *glabra* was quite plentiful on the dry conglomerate rock slopes. Millbrook Mountain (elevation 1620 ft.) was reached by dipping down through Kill Clove. This great escarpment faces southeast and its 600 foot sheer drop is said to be one of the highest in the eastern states. Lunch was eaten on its summit where the magnificent panorama of Wallkill and Rondout Valleys could be fully enjoyed. The Catskill Mountains were visible far to the northwest.

The afternoon trail led along the top of the Cliffs to Gertrude's Nose, long famous as the far inland station of *Corema conradi*. This rare plant was found abundantly in a restricted area on the dry sterile soil at the end of the point. Associated with it was *Cetraria islandica*. In a nearby swamp was found *Liriodendron tulipifera* up to 18 inches in diameter at waist height. Several sterile fronds of *Anchistea virginica* were discovered. *Ilex monticola*, beautifully fruited, was collected along drier ledges.

Lodging was secured at the Mountain Rest House and Cottages. The evening was spent at Lake Mohonk looking at the extensive and historically interesting botanical library of the late Daniel Smiley.

Sunday's route led along an old wood road which parallels the Peters Kill stream. *Virburnum lentago*, *Gentiana clausa*, *Lobelia cardinalis*, *Picea rubens*, *Hieracium paniculatum*, *Solidago puberula*, and *Polygala sanguinea* were noted.

Sparganium chlorocarpus var. *acaule* was found growing in a small brook. *Juncus brevicaudatus* (reported by House "southward to Orange County"), *Carex scoparia*, *C. folliculata*, *C. lurida* var. *gracilis*, *C. crinita* var. *gynandra*, *C. brunnescens* var. *sphaerostachya* (known from Catskills and the Poconos, "south to Dutchess County", House) and *Scirpus atrovirens* were noted.

Lunch was eaten at Rainbow Falls which is formed by the outlet brook of Awosting Lake dropping over the cliff into Huntington Ravine. The following were noted on the damp ledges near the foot of the falls, *Hypericum canadense*, *Carex canescens*, *Scirpus cyperinus*, *Agrostis scabra* (Willd.) (a northern species reported by Fernald, *Rhodora* 35: 208 (1933) "south to Pennsylvania") and *Drosera intermedia*.

In the ravine were *Lycopodium clavatum* and *Trillium undulatum* while in the wettest part was a fine stand of *Rhododendron maximum*.

Awosting Lake, on which is located a boys' camp, is noted for its clear waters and beautiful deep blue color. Near its shores were *Vaccinium corymbosum* and *Rhodora canadensis*. The latter has a very restricted distribution in New York State.

In Fly Brook Swamp a fairly large stand of *Dryopteris simulata* was found. *Carex cumulata* (Bailey) Mack. was collected from rocky openings at the swamp margin. (Mackenzie in House, p. 171. "In moist soil. Rare. Karner, Albany County; and Whitestone, Oneida County. Pine Plains, Dutchess County.") Common in this swamp were *Oxycoccus macrocarpus* and *Myrica gale*.

Throughout the whole trip the blueberries and huckleberries received careful attention, but for their gastronomic delights rather than their taxonomy.

In closing the account of this trip it seems fitting to mention

Mr. Torrey's name. For several years he had wished to make it having been attracted by the name "Dark Hole" (Huntington Ravine) on maps of the region and by reports of rare plants with northern affiliations. For some months before his death. Mr. Torrey had been corresponding with the writer about details, as he was counting on leading the trip botanically while I served as guide. While resting on Gertrude's Nose surrounded by *Corema* our thoughts were of him and his interest in this plant. The following is quoted from one of his letters:

"The ticket on the specimen of *Corema*, in the Gray Herbarium, Cambridge, Mass., collected about 1880, by whom I have forgotten, bears this inscription: "In rupibus siliceis, super vallem Palmaghat, in montibus Shawangunk."

DANIEL SMILEY, JR.

TRIP OF OCTOBER 3 TO FRANKLIN CLOVE, N. J.

Members of the New York Mycological Society and of the Torrey Botanical Club joined in a mushroom foray on October 3rd, 1938, in the vicinity of Franklin Clove, New Jersey. This geological freak forms a transverse ravine bisecting the first Watchung Mountain about three miles west of Paterson, so that one can walk from one side of the trap rock ridge to the other on an almost level trail. In this cleft are to be found many varieties of ferns and unusual wild plants, among them *Atragene americana* (*Clematis verticillaris*). More than fifty species of mushroom were collected. The *Armillaria mellea* and *Mycena galericulata* were abundant.

Near the south end of the Clove at the swamp's border were seen five persimmon trees bearing fruit.

Thirty-seven persons were present. Among them Dr. H. N. Moldenke, Messrs. James Murphy, G. G. Nearing. The presence of these gentleman gave an opportunity for identification of many plants other than mushrooms.

W. S. THOMAS

TRIP OF OCTOBER 28-30 TO MOHONK LAKE, N. Y.

Fifty members and friends of the club joined in the various walks. The program extended from Friday evening to Sunday afternoon. Accommodations were at the Lake Mohonk Mountain House.

The Saturday morning route covered $3\frac{3}{4}$ miles and gave extensive views out over the valleys on each side of the Shawangunk (pronounced Shongum) range. The trail led down through the Gate of the Winds, a natural cleft in the quartz conglomerate, which produces strong updrafts. The descent is accomplished by 153 rustic steps. Glen Anna, a deep ravine with a nearly pure stand of hemlock, was visited. The return trail led along the brink of the eastern cliffs of Sky Top and allowed a spectacular view of the results of glaciation and differential erosion to these Silurian ridges. Fine specimens of *Asplenium montanum* were seen. In a small brook near Glen Anna (elevation about 1100 feet) a large specimen of Purple Salamander (*Gyrinophilus porphyriticus*) was collected. This is the first record which the leader has for these mountains.

The afternoon walk was to the south to the lower slopes of the ridge. Here the soil is on the alkaline side as compared with the strongly acid reaction found along the upper slopes. On Oakwood Drive the party was met by two large "straw rides" drawn by teams of horses. Everyone piled on. The novelty of riding behind horses on these old fashioned vehicles was much enjoyed. A strange specimen of *Ilex* with yellow fruit and ribbed nutlets was collected. This is being reported elsewhere.

In the evening the leader projected for the group some of his Kodachrome slides taken at Mohonk. The autumn foliage and a series of brilliant sunsets caused particular comment. After this show, cider and doughnuts were served in honor of Hallowe'en.

The Sunday morning route led to Rhododendron and "Sleepy Hollow" Swamps. These are both strongly acid and have interesting plant associations. The mosses were abundant and beautiful. A Witch Hazel was discovered whose blossoms were definitely pink in color. This also is being reported in detail separately.

Evidences of the September hurricane were noted in many places. Fortunately wind damage was confined to forest trees. The red oaks seemed to be more effected than any other species. It was noted that although the apparent direction of the wind was from the west, the majority of the uprooted trees were on the southeast slope of the mountain.

DANIEL SMILEY, JR.

FIELD TRIP OF NOVEMBER 6

Eleven members and friends of the club assembled at the Wanaque-Midvale Station to meet Mr. Worth Smith who substituted for J. Ashton Allis as leader of the outing. We drove up to the Ringwood Mines where the cars were parked through the courtesy of Supt. S. H. Morrison. It was overcast and the wind was in a threatening quarter but we started out optimistically for Cedar Pond. Passing the idle marching of the old mine we followed a wood road to the northwest, traveling through second growth oak-hickory forest. The heavy litter of leaves obscured the ground plants but a few species of polypores and a good crop of oyster mushroom were observed. After crossing into New York State we passed a bank with a nice showing of *Biomyces roseus*. Other lichens nearby were various species and forms of *Cladonia*. The trail soon came out on a more or less passable road, the old road from Hewitt to Sterling Furnace. The road passed over a height of land and along the descent a spring was found to the right of the road. After crossing a stream we left the road turning left up the brook. Some distance up stream a beaver dam was found and evidence of fresh beaver work. A considerable flooded area forced a detour across rough country over a ridge covered with huge boulders. This was not without its reward for the rocks were well populated with smooth and corrugated rock tripe. After the detour the trail led steeply upward to the pond. Cedar Pond has an altitude of 1029 feet. It is wooded to the water's edge. There is a good stand of rhododendron, mountain laurel, some hemlock and to the north of the pond a swamp of southern white cedar. Across the pond and beyond to the northeast the fire tower on Stirling Mountain could be seen. After a leisurely lunch we walked perhaps one third of the way around the lake which is probably not over a quarter mile across at any point. The return trip started about 2 o'clock and under the stimulus of rain we made good progress. A short cut took us down to the old road near the trail back to the Mines, which were reached in about an hour.

After what drying was possible we drove up to Ringwood Manor and spent about an hour inspecting the Manor House and grounds. All hands seemed to consider the outing a success, the weather notwithstanding.

JOHN A. SMALL